

THE WASHINGTON
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P. Kidner, John
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Hoffa, Jimmy

BOOKNOTES

Washington writer John Kidner has Acropolis Press's big summer book, *Crimaldi*, about a Chicago mobster who also is an informer for the Drug Enforcement Administration. Crimaldi, once a hit man for the Chicago syndicate, told Kidner that Jimmy Hoffa has been executed and his body put in a junkyard wreck to be crushed and melted with the car. Crimaldi thinks Hoffa was killed by a CIA hit man—not by someone officially working for the Agency, but by a CIA type acting to protect the Agency from Hoffa testimony. Hoffa, Crimaldi says, was the initial contact between the CIA and Chicago crime czar Sam Giancana, who was killed in June 1975 just before he was scheduled to testify before Senators investigating the CIA. Crimaldi told Kidner that Giancana and his hoodlums were set to kill Fidel Castro back during the Kennedy Administration, but backed off after mob high priest Paul "The Waiter" Ricca told them they were better off doing time than getting special treatment from the government by killing Castro for the CIA. But then more than ten years later, Crimaldi claims, both Giancana and Hoffa were killed to keep them from talking about Castro or the JFK assassination. ...Mario Puzo's next effort will be a large-format book with photographs about Las Vegas. ...Elmo Zumwalt, retired chief of naval operations, will cause some talk with *On Watch*, a memoir of his military career that is being called candid and hard-hitting. It will be published this month by Quadrangle and liberally distributed in Virginia, where Zumwalt is running against Senator Harry Byrd. ...James M. Cain, who lives in Prince George's County, has a July novel, *The Institute*, coming from Charter. It's about

a scholar who begins to lose control of events after he becomes involved with the wife of a financier, according to *Publishers Weekly*. ...Les Whitten's new novel, *Conflict of Interest*, will be out in June from Doubleday. You have to read through a lot of sex to keep with the central character, an investigative reporter. But the paperback people liked it: They bought it for \$360,000. ...Also getting big paperback money is Patrick Anderson—\$250,000 for *The President's Mistress*, maybe the fastest reading Washington novel of the year.